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September 12, 2005

To: Supervisor Gloria Molina, Chair
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Supervisor Don Knabe

From: David Sanders, Ph.D. 
Director

**SEPTEMBER 6, 2005 BOARD AGENDA ITEM #65-A AS AMENDED BY
SUPERVISOR BURKE: HURRICANE KATRINA TASK FORCE**

The Department has determined that 85 children placed with relatives/foster parents/adoptive parents resided in the Gulf Coast area when Hurricane Katrina hit. Following the disaster, DCFS staff engaged in a concerted effort to locate and verify the safety of these children. We are pleased to state that all 85 children have been located and are safe.

The success of this search is due in part to the dedication of the staff involved in the effort. In order to locate these children, social workers have used a variety of resources and methods to circulate information regarding the plight of these children, including the following:

- Last known addresses and previous contact information on file with the Department and with the minors' attorneys were reviewed in hopes of identifying other relatives who might have heard from the affected families.
- The Child Welfare Services/Case Management System (CWS/CMS), a computerized statewide case management system, was searched for other possible contact leads for the children.
- Names of the children were circulated at evacuee locations in the Gulf Coast area, such as command center operations at the Houston Astro Arena Clinic and the George R. Brown Convention Center (Houston).

- Various Internet links for missing children were utilized, such as www.missingkids.com; PublicPeopleLocator.com; and the Central Registry of Missing Children and Safe Persons.
- Searches were initiated through the American Red Cross Family Links Hotline and the State of California Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC), a nationwide network that oversees out of state placements.

The Department appreciates the support of the Board with this effort as provided through the Board motion calling for an all out search, including incorporating assistance from other government agencies.

I will be available to answer questions regarding this matter at the Board meeting on September 13, 2005. If you have any additional questions, please call me or your staff may contact Helen Berberian, Manager, Board Relations Section at (213) 351-5530.

DS:AC:
SN:BB:bjn

c: Chief Administrative Officer
County Counsel
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors